(a) the rate at which palmolein was imported by the National Dairy Development Board during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the quantity of palmolein imported, the whole-sale rate at which it was sold in the market and the rate at which it was made available to the consumers; and

(c) the profit earned by the Board each year during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Edible oil has been imported through the STC which is the canalising agency for this purpose. NDDB did not directly import palmolein during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

(b) Details of palmolein allotted to NDDB out of quantities imported through the STC and the average wholesale rate at which they were disposed of year-wise are as follows:-

| *Year* | *Quantity allotted (in MT)* | *Average wholesale rate (Rs/MT)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 25,000 | 19,758 |
| 1989-90 | 80,000 | 25,173 |
| 1990-91 | Nil | 23,845 (old Stocks sold) |

A small quantity of palmolein was disposed of directly to the Cooperative Societies in 15 Kg. tins at Rs. 437 per tin.

(c) The surpluses generated by market intervention operations of NDDB are required to be credited to a Market Intervention Fund to the extent of Rs. 30 crores and to Government thereafter Hence the question of the Board earning a profit does not arise. The losses, if any are also to be charged to the Market Intervention fund and to Government thereafter.

**Visit of US Deputy Secretary of State for International Security Affairs**

4570. SHRI SIMON MARNDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State for International Security Affairs had recently visited India; and

(b) if so, the details of the visit and the outcome of the talks held by him with Indian leaders?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Mr. Reginald Bartholomew visited India from November 21-23, 1991.

(b) Mr. Bartholomew's visit was in the context of continuing Indo-US discussions on issues of mutual interest including the security enviornment of the region.